

Stewkley Tennis Club AGM

Nov. 23, 2021

Attendees: Sue Atkinson, Julie Dawson, Jeremy Gibbs (Secretary), Malcolm Lee, Steve Morris, Claire Munday, Ian O'Neill, Rob Owen, Kris Pratt, Neil Shefferd (Chair), Geoff Stott, Sally Shefferd, John Sheldon, Phil Whitecross (Treasurer).

Apologies: Kathryn Bennett, Graham Double, Matt Evans (Head Coach), Helen Faulkner, Sandy Fitzpatrick, George Gater (Facilities & LTA), Didier Jaquet, Kathryn Jaquet, Joe Millward.

Minutes

- Minutes from previous AGM –

Confirmed as accurate.

- Chairman's report –

NS presented the accompanying report for the 2020-21 season.

- Treasurer's report –

The group expressed thanks to Geoff Ball for auditing the club's accounts. PW presented the accompanying 2020-21 finances report. Adult, Family and Student member numbers increased over the year. Electricity costs for lights expected to reach ~£700 this year. The club received a total of approximately £30,000 by way of grants due to lockdown thus we have funds available to support resurfacing, shed and lights (see Any Other Business, Facilities).

- Membership fees –

Proposal to increase membership fees starting next season (2022-3) after last increase in 2017:

- Adults – was £70, proposed increase to £75
- Families – was £150, proposed increase to £160
- Students – was £30, no change proposed
- Juniors – was £15, no change proposed

No changes proposed to joining fees.

To limit the increase, 2022-23 club membership fees will not include Rec fees. Historically our membership fees have included an additional £5 which was passed to the Rec thus giving Rec membership to all adult tennis club members. The Rec decided this year to drop that requirement so members wishing to join the Rec social

club to take advantage of facilities such as the bar should sign up and pay £10 fees at the Rec Pavilion.

Proposed by Julie Dawson and seconded by Ian O'Neill.

- Internet banking

Committee want to switch to internet banking to take court bookings for non-members via app and remove the need for cheques. PW to investigate two-person expense approval from Barclays from their internet banking system. ML, KP and JG agreed to act as additional signatories.

- Events

Pig racing: JD kindly offered to lead organizing a Pig Racing night in the Rec Pavilion in March or April. Ideally for 60 people, ticketed with a meal ("pulled pork," suggested CM).

Tournament: IO kindly offered to organize a patriotic mixed tournament on Jubilee Weekend (ideally, Saturday, June 4 after JG conferred with village Jubilee committee).

- Welfare

No issues to report. JG confirmed that safeguarding procedures and training are up to date.

- Election of Officers

NS stood down as Chair but to remain on the Committee. KP to be the new Secretary (responsible for minutes) proposed by JG and seconded by IO. JG to be the new Chair proposed by IO and NS.

- Any other business

Facilities:

PW to talk to Janette Eustace about potential grants for works. Committee to investigate grants from Sport England and the LTA.

Resurfacing, steam cleaning – After resurfacing in 2008, re-painting in 2015 and steam cleaning in spring 2019, the group felt that another steam clean would take the moss and slip off the surface, and give two more years of life to the court before resurfacing. Re-painting ruled out as a stop gap before resurfacing – expensive (~£5k) and short-lived given the need to resurface in two years. GG to commission a steam clean. SM to get quotes for court resurfacing.

Shed – KP discuss plans for a new shed, 15m x 3m to fit on the end of the scout hut with a budget of ~£10k including fencing to put it in the court enclosure. Committee to further develop plans and seek approval from the Rec Committee and Parish

Council. JS suggested the club seek sponsorship for a certain part, such as the base, from the Grapevine.

Lights – NS to seek professional opinion on lights cleaning and potential fitting of LED bulbs.

Nets – JG to replace straps and investigate where net eyes meet posts – fix or replace.

Coaching:

To resume in Spring. ME to contact CM about opportunities to offer coaching in Stewkley school or, at least, offer an afternoon visit to the courts and coaching for a year group.

Support for youngsters:

Committee considering an EGM for a proposal to fund a program to support rackets and coaching for target St. Michael's pupils.

Table tennis table:

Consensus was against the idea of a table tennis table next to court on the grounds of noise and potential for balls to blow into the courts. NS to share concerns with the Rec Committee and JG to express concerns with the Parish Council (Dec. 8).